

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Judiciary's legislative team brings together representatives of the courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts to enhance the effectiveness of the judicial branch's relationship with the General Assembly by serving as the main judicial branch contact for legislative matters and by monitoring and analyzing legislation for impact on the Judiciary.

FY 2007 brought a milestone of success to the Judiciary's efforts to ensure the safety of those who appear in Delaware courts, with the enactment of legislation creating separate security assessment funding. This legislation, Senate Substitute 1 for SB 75, represented a new approach to solving the long-standing problem of insufficient resources for court security needs by offering a way to address critical security equipment and personnel shortages, particularly in the Justice of the Peace Courts. Another highlight in FY 2007 was SB 62, the constitutional amendment authorizing the Securities and Exchange Commission to certify questions of Delaware law to the Delaware Supreme Court. This amendment was enacted in response to the express interest of the SEC in seeking the Court's advice on Delaware corporate law issues and was lauded as an opportunity to provide expedited decisions and greater certainty to questions involving Delaware corporate law.

In addition to the legislation discussed above, the following legislation affecting the judicial branch was passed during FY 2007 by the 144th session of the General Assembly and has been enacted into law:

Bill No.	Description
SB 26	Allows the Justice of the Peace Court to retain jurisdiction over a contempt charge in a truancy case
SB 30 w/SA 1	Amends various civil procedures of the Justice of the Peace Court
SB 39	Permits Title 21 violations (other than § 4177) occurring in any part of Milford to be heard in the nearest court in Kent County
SB 50	Transfers several Title 21 offenses to Family Court's exclusive jurisdiction when committed by minors
SB 69	Transfers jurisdiction over actions arising from arbitration agreements relating to consumer credit contracts from the Court of Chancery to the Court of Common Pleas
SB 104	Permits commissioners to preside over contested, as well as uncontested, divorce matters
SB 105	Deletes the requirement that social security numbers of the parties appear on all decrees of divorce or annulment
HB 46	Brings the publication requirement for guardianship of a child into conformity with the publication requirements for other civil filings in the Family Court
HB 48	Requires separate filings for child support, custody and visitation requests when filing for divorce
HB 53	This is the second leg of a Constitutional Amendment to delete the use of the surplus term "associate" when referring to judges of the Superior and Family Courts in the Constitution
HB 56 as amended by House Amendment 1	Permits the Justice of the Peace Court to retain jurisdiction over a truancy case when the child is withdrawn from public school